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**THE**  
MONTHLY



**GULL**  
BULLETIN

VOLUME 11

SAN FRANCISCO, JULY, 1929

NUMBER 7

**JULY MEETING:** In view of the very meagre attendance at previous July meetings in the mid-vacation season, none will be held this month.

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**JULY FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, July 14th, to Golden Gate Park. Take car No. 7 to 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way. Party will meet at 9:30 A. M. Bring luncheon. Leaders, Mrs. A. B. Stephens and Miss Pringle.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUNE MEETING:** The 149th regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held on Thursday evening, June 13th, in the Board Room of the Harbor Commissioners, San Francisco, California, at 8 o'clock. President C. A. Harwell presided.

Minutes of the May 9th, 1929 Association's meeting were read and accepted.

Minutes of the May 9th Board of Directors' meeting were read.

The question of continuing to issue the **GULL** as a quarterly or bi-monthly publication was discussed. The majority of the members were in favor of continuing the publication of the **GULL** in its present form.

Members were urged to send in unusual observations and other items of interest suitable for publication.

The members present approved the action of the Board in raising the price of the **GULL** subscription to 75c per year, effective at once, and in setting the prices of back issues of the **GULL** as follows:

First five years' issues (vol. 1-5, 1919-1923 inc.) 25c per issue.

Second five years' issues (vol. 6-10, 1924-1928 inc.) 20c per issue.

Third five years' issues (vol. 11, 1929—) 15c per issue.

Report of the State Bird Campaign was made by Mr. Harwell. Miss Mack, president of the Science Club of the San Francisco Girls' High School was introduced by Miss Pettit and spoke of the method of voting in vogue at her school and presented returns and ballots to Mr. Harwell. Miss Hibbard reported for Crocker Jr. High School.

Mr. Harwell mentioned his proposed absence from the city for several weeks and, in this connection, his inability to continue State Bird broadcasting over KGO, which station had expressed its interest in this project and wished to continue its work in connection therewith. Mr. Harwell asked for substitutes to carry on this radio work on Thursday nights.

Progress in the matter of the "Memorial Aviary," which subject was presented before the Association at the October 1928 meeting, was reported upon by Mrs. Jeanne de Francoeur. She asked the assistance of the Association by the formation of a committee to aid in getting this project on a regular basis for action, it being felt that the work would be expedited if all bird or-

ganizations were to act as a unit. This matter was referred to the Board of Directors.

The following persons were nominated for membership in the Association:

Mr. O. W. Bauer, Chico; Miss A. Corneil Perdue, Oakland; Miss Amy Rinehart, Oakland; Mr. Laidlaw Williams, Carmel, and Mrs. Benjamin Pitman, Alameda. Mr. George M. Wright for Life Member.

The guest of the evening was Mr. E. C. O'Roke, Biologist, Division of Fish and Game, who very entertainingly presented "Some Ecological Factors in the Life of the Quail." This was illustrated with slides.

Field observations were reported as follows: Mr. Harwell described at some length his experience with two young pileated woodpeckers whose nesting tree had been cut down. When the tree struck the ground the young woodpeckers were thrown out of the nest hole and stunned. After "coming to" the young woodpeckers were placed on the side of a tall standing tree and in twenty minutes climbed to the top where the parents were waiting for them.

Mr. Bryant: June 9th, black-throated gray warbler near Phoenix Lake, Marin Co.

Miss Mack: Mallard duck families in Golden Gate Park.

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#### ACADEMY NAMES CALIFORNIAN AS SCIENCE MEMBER

At the annual election meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held in Boston last May, our esteemed friend and an honorary member of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, director of the museum of vertebrate zoology at the University of California, was elected as one of the nine men in the United States to become fellows in the section for geological, biological and medical sciences.

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#### AN ALLURING AUTO PARK

During a recent visit to Mendocino County, we made Willits our headquarters. We were not equipped for camping but if I were going again I would take a sleeping bag along so that I might spend the night at the Willits Auto Park and hear the chorus of song birds at dawn. The park consists of six or eight acres in the bottom of the valley four blocks east of the main highway and is bordered by a little stream. An almost pure stand of white oaks furnishes abundant shade and here and there along the road which winds through it a tent stands ready for the weary traveler. The ground cover is grass—not wild oats—and stays green all summer, I am told.

The whole park resounds with the notes of our best California song birds, the most prominent being, not one, but several Long-tailed Chats, Russet-backed Thrushes, Grosbeaks, Song Sparrows, Warbling and Cassin Vireos, Lazuli Buntings, Linnets, Pine Siskins, Green-backed Goldfinches, Tolmie, Yellow and Lutescent Warblers, Yellow-throats, Chipping Sparrows and Meadowlarks are not to be daunted by the chat's loud notes but each contributes its part to the grand symphony. Willow and California Woodpeckers, Slender-billed Nuthatches, Violet-green Swallows, Spotted and Brown Towhees, Black Phoebe and Western Flycatchers join in. Tanagers were there on May 24, probably in migration, and Orioles were just outside the fence. Add an Allen Hummingbird as a piccolo, an Anthony Green Heron and Western Crow as double basses and you have twenty-nine different bird voices. A Buzzard which circled overhead and listened in was number thirty on my list.

Three chats are enough by themselves to make the woods ring. I leave you to imagine the ensemble.

AMELIA S. ALLEN.

## BOOK NOTICES

Life Histories of North American Shore Birds  
Order Limicolae (Part 2)

By ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT

United States National Museum Bulletin No. 116 has just been issued. This is the eighth of a series of bulletins on the life histories of North American birds.

The same general plan has been followed as in previous publications. The classification and nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists Union, in its latest check list and its supplements, have been followed, mainly, with such few changes as the author deemed expedient to make in order to bring the work up to date and in line with the recent advances in the science.

The bulletin includes buff-breasted, green, solitary, spotted, western solitary and wood sandpipers, eastern and western willets, wandering and Polynesian tattlers, ruff, plovers, curlews, whimbrel, lapwing, dotterel, surf bird, turnstones, oystercatchers and Mexican jacana.

A bibliography and numerous plates complete the publication. Price \$1.00 (cash or money order). Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

A Guide to the Birds of Colorado  
By WILLIAM HARRY BERGTOLD

Although Colorado is not an adjoining State, still the great majority of birds described in Dr. Bergtold's book are also found in California. This makes his book valuable to California bird students. Besides the kind of key usually found in all manuals of zoology, there are field keys based on the most striking color characteristics. The characteristic flight of each species of ducks as described by Dr. Bergtold is especially helpful. The glossary and bibliography add much to the value of this book. Price \$2.25. The Smith-Brooks Printing Co., Denver, Colorado.

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THE JUNE FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 16th, starting from Ross and following the road that leads past Phoenix Lake. Instead of climbing the steep Fish Grade to Lake Lagunitas, the party followed along the beautiful road which gradually winds up and around to Bon Tempe meadow, then through the meadow to Lake Lagunitas and down the Fish Grade to Ross.

The associations along the route are streams with dense thickets of shrubbery along the banks, lake shores, wooded roads and open meadows.

The weather was ideal except for a strong wind in the open places. The birds were plentiful and easy to observe, though some of the commonest ones were entirely absent.

On alighting from the train at Ross, the party was greeted with linnets, black-headed grosbeaks, yellow warblers and song sparrows. The creek which flows past the station is densely bordered with willows, alders and box-elders. A pair of downy woodpeckers were busy here with their young and to add interest to the scene two Nuttall woodpeckers seemed to be taking lessons from their downy friends in how to feed a hungry family. Russet-backed thrushes were furnishing the Sunday morning songs for the bird folk that were gathered here.

In a small group of oaks in front of the school, chickadees, titmice and creepers were feeding their young. Farther along out on a branch overhanging the road a pair of robins had a nest full of young and another pair of downy woodpeckers were making frequent visits to their nest in which the incessant calling of young could be heard. While the party were comfortably seated on the bank counting the downy woodpeckers' visits to their young, four martins appeared overhead, their size, deeply notched tail, apparently black coloration and deep musical notes proved their identity. A short distance farther they were observed again and this time were being persecuted by tree

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swallows who seemed to resent their presence. A black-throated gray warbler was again singing in the same tree where he was observed the Sunday previous. A pair of barn swallows had just completed a nest under an old bridge in Bon Tempe meadow and a pair of rough-winged swallows had young in a hole in the bank along the stream. A lutescent warbler had three young in a perfectly camouflaged nest on the face of a steep bank. One of the party reached up to examine a wild flower that was beside the nest and in so doing flushed the sitting bird, otherwise the nest would never have been seen. A western flycatcher had a beautiful nest of moss containing four eggs. The nest was located on a rock that barely cleared the road and the bird did not flush till approached to within about eighteen inches. Surely a wonderful day for studying nests and young.

Some bird songs that are sometimes confusing were straightened out. Juncos, lutescent warblers and chipping sparrows when heard separately are sometimes mistaken, but on one or two occasions all were singing in nearby trees at the same time so that a fine comparison was had.

On our return across the bay the murres added much to the pleasure of our trip. Another boat running parallel to ours at quite a distance frightened one group after another at short intervals and each in its turn passed across the bow of our boat.

The small party who had faith in the weather was amply rewarded with the sixty species observed.

Birds observed were: On San Francisco Bay, Farallon double-crested cormorant; northern western and California gulls; California murre; elsewhere: California great blue and black-crowned night herons; ruddy duck; northern turkey vulture; Cooper, western red-tailed and desert sparrow hawks; coast California quail; northern killdeer; Anna and Allen humming birds; western belted kingfisher; California acorn-storing, willow downy and Nuttall ladder-backed woodpeckers; yellow-bellied western and greater olive-sided flycatchers; California horned lark; northern violet-green, tree, rough-winged, barn and northern cliff swallows; western purple martin; northwestern California jay; western American crow; Marin chestnut-backed chickadee; California plain titmouse; Pacific Coast bushtit; tawny brown creeper; ruddy wren-tit; Vigor's Bewick wren; western robin; Pacific russet-backed thrush; western Mexican bluebird; western warbling and Hutton vireos; lutescent orange-crowned, California yellow, black-throated gray and golden pileolated warblers; western meadowlark; California Brewer blackbird; Pacific black-headed grosbeak; lazuli bunting; California purple finch; California linnet; northern pine siskin; green-backed Arkansas goldfinch; San Francisco spotted and brown towhees; western lark sparrow; Point Pinos Oregon junco; western chipping, Marin and Samuels song sparrows. Sixty species.

Members in attendance: Mrs. Futhey, Mr. and Mrs. Lockerbie, Misses Ames, Cohen; Messrs. Bryant, Bunker, Myer. Guests: Mrs. Bunker, Mr. and Mrs. Horn, Misses Mack, Taylor; Messrs. Gross, Weiler. Eight members and seven guests.

CHAS. A. BRYANT.

### AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

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Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Additional active members in the same household and under the same support, \$2.00 per year.

Life membership, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.